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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 611 and 672

[Docket No. 81132-9033]

Foreign Fishing; Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Final notice of 1989 initial
groundfish specifications in the Gulf of
Alaska; prohibited species catch limits
for certain groundfish species and for
Pacific halibut; reapportionments of
reserves; inseason adjustment of the

Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery; request
for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Commerce
(Secretary) announces certain measures
that are being implemented to manage
the 1989 groundfish fishery in the Gulf of
Alaska. This action is necessary to
inform the public of the Secretary's
determinations relating to 1989
management of the groundfish fisheries
in the Gulf of Alaska. The measures are
intended to carry out management
objectives contained in the Fishery
Management Plan for Groundfish of the
Gulf of Alaska (FMP).

DATES: Effective February 9, 1989.
Comments are invited on the
apportionments of reserves and on the
inseason adjustment in the pollock
fishery until February 24, 1989.

ADDRESS: Comments should be sent to
Steven Pennoyer, Regional Director,
Alaska Region, National Marine
Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668,
Juneau, AK 99802.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Ronald J. Berg (Fishery Management
Biologist, NMFS), 907-586-7230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This notice announces for the 1989
fishing year: (1) Total allowable catches
(TACs) for each category of groundfish
in the Gulf of Alaska and
apportionments thereof among domestic
annual processing (DAP), joint venture
processing (JVP), total allowable level of
foreign fishing (TALFF), and reserves;
(2) assignments of the sablefish TAC to
authorized fishing gear users; (3)
prohibited species catch (PSC) limits
that are relevant to fully utilized
groundfish species that will be imposed
on JVP; (4) PSC limits of Pacific halibut
on DAP; (5) apportionments of reserves
to DAP; and (6) an inseason adjustment
in the Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery.

TACs for groundfish species in the
Gulf of Alaska are established annually
through the FMP that was developed by
the North Pacific Fishery Management
Council (Council) under the Magnuson

Act and is implemented by regulations appearing at 50 CFR 611.92 and Part 672. The sum of the TACs for all species must fall within the combined optimum yield (OY) range established for these species of 116,000–800,000 metric tons (mt).

TACs are apportioned initially among DAP, JVP, reserves, and TALFF for each species under § 611.92 and § 672.20(a)(2). DAP amounts are intended for harvest by U.S. fishermen for delivery and sale to U.S. processors. JVP amounts are intended for joint ventures in which U.S. fishermen typically deliver their catches to foreign processors at sea. TALFF amounts are intended for harvest by foreign fishermen. The reserves for the Gulf of Alaska are 20 percent of the TAC for pollock, Pacific cod, flounder, and "other species." These reserve amounts are set aside for possible reapportionment to DAP and/or to JVP if the initial apportionments prove inadequate. Reserves which are not reapportioned to DAP or JVP may be reapportioned to TALFF. Other groundfish target species, including sablefish, "other rockfish," pelagic shelf rockfish, demersal shelf rockfish, and thornyhead rockfish are fully utilized by DAP and no reserves are established.

Under § 611.92 and § 672.20(a)(2), the Secretary, after consultation with the Council, shall specify the TAC for each calendar year for each target species and the "other species" category, and shall apportion the TACs among DAP, JVP, reserves, and TALFF. The sum of the TACs must be within the OY range.

Under § 672.20(c)(1), the preliminary specifications of DAP and JVP amounts were published in the *Federal Register* (53 FR 47993, November 29, 1988) and comments were requested to be submitted to the Regional Director until December 23, 1988. No comments were received by the Regional Director.

The Council met during December 5–9, 1988 to review the best available scientific information concerning groundfish stocks, intended harvest plans for 1989, and estimates made by NMFS concerning the extent to which U.S. fishermen would need amounts of groundfish. This information was contained in the Resource Assessment Document (RAD), which was prepared and presented by the Gulf of Alaska Plan Team to the Council and to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP). Information contained in the RAD included results obtained from the 1984 and 1987 triennial survey of groundfish conducted in the Gulf of Alaska and the 1986 and 1988 hydroacoustic survey of pollock in Shelikof Strait, which lies

between Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula. Both surveys were conducted by the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fishery Center (NWAFC). The SSC reviewed the available information and recommended to the Council acceptable biological catches (ABCs) discussed below and shown in Table 1 contained at § 672.20. The AP also considered information contained in the RAD and recommended TACs for each species.

Most of the information considered by the Council was summarized in the preliminary notice. Any new information and subsequent actions by the Council for each species and species complex are summarized below:

1. Total Allowable Catches

Pollock—Information concerning the status of pollock is based on information from Shelikof Strait hydroacoustic surveys conducted in 1986 and 1988 and the 1987 bottom trawl survey. The 1987 bottom trawl survey indicated the total pollock biomass to be 593,000 mt. The 1988 hydroacoustic survey indicated the total pollock biomass to be 330,000 mt. The SSC believes that the best estimate of the biomass is that derived from the 1987 bottom trawl survey, or 593,000 mt. The Council adopted an ABC equal to 60,000 mt. Rather than allow a catch of this magnitude to take place entirely on spawning pollock in Shelikof Strait, the Council recommended that the Secretary establish a TAC in Shelikof Strait equal to 6,250 mt and set DAP equal to TAC. The Council also recommended a TAC in the rest of the Western/Central Regulatory Area equal to 53,750 mt and recommended DAP equal TAC.

The Council recommended further that the ABC in the Eastern Regulatory Area be set equal to 3,400 mt, but recommended that the TAC be limited to 200 mt, since fishermen will take pollock as bycatch only and 200 mt will satisfy bycatch needs in this regulatory area.

Pacific cod—Although Pacific cod stocks appear to be decreasing in size, stocks are still healthy. The RAD provided a revised estimate of projected exploitable biomass based on 1984 and 1987 trawl surveys that suggested ABC should be revised downward to 71,200 mt, using a rate of fishing mortality that would result in the maximum sustainable yield being achieved. The SSC concurred with this result. The Council adopted this amount and recommended that TAC equal ABC, apportioned among the regulatory areas as follows: Western—13,500 mt; Central—52,000 mt; and Eastern—5,700 mt.

Flounders—Stocks of flounder are in good condition. Biomass estimates from the 1984 and 1987 triennial bottom trawl surveys indicate that exploitable biomass has increased about 3 percent, to 2,110,854 mt. The Plan Team used different fishing mortality rates for certain species constituting the flounder complex by selecting a rate to maximize the yield per recruit for arrowtooth flounder, rock sole, and yellowfin sole, because these species are at near virgin biomass levels. The Plan Team used an exploitation rate of 26 percent for flathead sole, since the higher rate used for the other species yielded an unrealistically high result. This procedure resulted in an ABC for the flounder complex equal to 554,700 mt. The SSC accepted the Plan Team's result. The Council adopted the ABC but set TAC equal to 36,000 mt to avoid the otherwise high bycatch of Pacific halibut. The Council recommended the TAC be apportioned among the regulatory areas as follows: Western—3,200 mt; Central—31,800 mt; and Eastern—1,000 mt.

Sablefish—Results of the 1988 Japan-U.S. cooperative longline survey indicates the sablefish biomass remains high. The Plan Team recommended an ABC equal to 30,900 mt, which is a decrease from the 1988 level of 35,000 mt, using a conservative biomass estimate. This compensates for lack of evidence of a strong 1984 year class that was expected to fully recruit to the fishery in 1989. The SSC concurred with the Plan Team's recommendation. The Council adopted the SSC's recommendation for ABC but recommended that the TAC should be 26,000 mt to compensate for unreported fishing mortality that might be occurring from gear loss on the grounds and other sources. The Council recommended that TAC be apportioned among the regulatory areas and districts, as follows:

Western—3,770 mt; Central—11,700 mt; West Yakutat—4,550 mt; and Southeast Outside/East Yakutat—5,980 mt.

Rockfish assemblages—The same three categories of rockfish in the genus *Sebastes* will be managed in 1989 as in 1988. These categories are "other rockfish", pelagic shelf rockfish, and demersal shelf rockfish. They are described as follows:

"Other rockfish"—In the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and the Eastern Regulatory Area west of 137° W. longitude, "other rockfish" means the 18 species of slope rockfish and the 10 species of demersal shelf rockfish listed in the footnote to Table 1 of this notice.

TACs are established for these combined assemblages in these management areas. In the Southeast Outside District, "other rockfish" means the 18 species of slope rockfish only. A TAC is established for this assemblage of 18 species in the Southeast Outside District.

Pelagic shelf rockfish—In the Western, Central, and Eastern Regulatory Areas, pelagic shelf rockfish means the five rockfish species listed in the footnote to Table 1 of this notice. A TAC is established for this assemblage in each of these regulatory areas.

Demersal shelf rockfish—In the Southeast Outside District, demersal shelf rockfish means the ten rockfish species listed in the footnote to Table 1 of this notice. A TAC is established in the Southeast Outside District.

The condition of, and Council action for, each of the rockfish assemblages that make up the three categories are as follows:

The condition of slope rockfish is good and stocks are believed to be increasing in abundance. Exploitable biomass is estimated to be about 702,000 mt. About 14 percent of this amount, or 99,700 mt, is composed of a subcategory called "deep slope" rockfish. The balance is composed of a subcategory called "shallow slope" rockfish. The Plan Team recommended a Gulf of Alaska-wide ABC range of 14,700–30,700 mt. The SSC believed the midpoint of the range, or 22,700 mt to be more appropriate. The Council adopted a reduced ABC of 20,000 mt to afford more protection to two deep water species of slope rockfish, which might otherwise be overharvested if the TAC were larger and fishing to achieve TAC were directed at these species. The Council recommended the TAC be set at 20,000 mt, and apportioned among the regulatory areas as follows: Western—5,774 mt; Central—8,452 mt; and Eastern—5,774 mt.

The Plan Team recommended a Gulf of Alaska-wide ABC of 3,300 for pelagic shelf rockfish. The SSC recommended an ABC of 6,600 mt. The Council adopted a preliminary ABC equal to 3,300 mt, but set TAC equal to 3,300 mt, apportioned among the management areas as follows: Western 500 mt; Central—2,400 mt; and Eastern—400 mt.

No biomass or yield estimates are available on which to base an ABC for demersal shelf rockfish. This rockfish assemblage is the target of a hook-and-line fishery in the Southeast Outside District. Information from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on this rockfish assemblage suggests that the population is declining. The Council adopted a TAC of 420 mt, based on a State of Alaska recommendation that no

more than this amount should be harvested from the Southeast Outside District.

Thornyhead rockfish—The SSC adopted the Plan Team's recommendation that the ABC should be set approximately equal to the 1988 amount, rounded up from 3,750 mt to 3,800 mt. The Council adopted this number and recommended a Gulf of Alaska-wide TAC equal to ABC.

Other species—No recommendations were made by the Plan Team for this group. Under the FMP, the TAC for this species category is to be set at 5 percent of the sum of the TACs established for the other groundfish categories.

The sum of the above TACs adopted by the Council is 231,966 mt, which falls within the OY range specified by the FMP. The Council, after adopting the TACs, then deliberated on the apportionment of the TACs for each species among DAP, JVP, reserve, and TALFF. The Council reviewed the results of the NMFS-conducted U.S. processor survey and the stated requests by joint venture companies for JVP. Prior to the Council's meeting, NMFS surveyed the U.S. processing industry about its processing capacity and the extent to which the capacity will be used for groundfish species in 1989. This survey did not include sablefish and all of the rockfish species, which are known to be fully utilized as a result of prior years' harvests. The survey did include pollock, Pacific cod, and flounder. When the Regional Director reviewed the survey results, he calculated the probability that those amounts would actually be processed, considering the amount of processing machinery that was available or which was planned for but not yet in place, both on shore and on catcher/processor and mothership processor vessels.

In doing so, the Regional Director discounted some of the survey results as overly optimistic. The Regional Director presented his analysis (see table of NMFS projections of DAP needs for pollock, Pacific cod, and flounder, below) to the Council, which in turn used it to recommend to the Secretary initial DAP specifications. As a result of the process, TALFF is set at zero, because all species are expected to be fully utilized by U.S. fishermen, either in DAP or JVP fisheries. For pollock and Pacific cod, NMFS projections of DAP needs exceed TACs for these species. For flounder, NMFS projections of DAP needs are less than TAC by 10,000 mt. This amount is available for JVP. For sablefish and all the rockfish species, including thornyhead rockfish, all TACs are expected to be needed by DAP, and none are available for JVP. Since DAH (i.e., sum of DAP and JVP) equals TACs

for all species, none is available for TALFF.

The Secretary has reviewed the Council's recommendations for TAC specifications and apportionments and hereby implements these specifications under § 672.20(c)(1). The FMP stipulates that 20 percent of each TAC be set aside in a reserve for possible reapportionment at a later date. Because DAP is projected to need all reserve amounts, the Secretary, at this time, is reapportioning reserves for each species category except flounder to DAP.

DAP REQUESTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED TO NMFS, AND NMFS INITIAL PROJECTIONS OF DAP FOR POLLOCK, PACIFIC COD, AND FLOUNDER FOR 1989 FOLLOWING ITS SURVEY OF U.S. PROCESSORS

	DAP requests (mt)	NMFS initial projections of DAP needs (mt)
Pollock	85,712	85,512
Pacific Cod	86,625	76,120
Flounders	20,217	17,442

By doing so, the Secretary is anticipating that U.S. fishermen will need all of DAH amounts so specified. Only those amounts that the Secretary has determined will not be needed by DAP are apportioned to JVP at this time.

2. Assignments of the Sablefish TAC to Authorized Fishing Gear Users

Under § 672.24(b), the sablefish TACs for each of the regulatory areas and districts are further assigned to hook-and-line and trawl gear. The Secretary publishes for the information of the public the following table that shows the assignments of sablefish TACs between the gear types:

SABLEFISH TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) AND AMOUNTS OF TAC, IN METRIC TONS, ASSIGNED TO AUTHORIZED GEAR IN THE REGULATORY AREAS AND DISTRICTS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

Area/District	TAC	Hook-and-line share	Trawl share
Western	3,770	3,020	750
Central	11,700	9,360	2,340
West Yakutat	4,550	4,320	230
Southeast outside/ East Yakutat	5,980	5,680	300
Total	26,000	22,380	3,620

3. PSC Limits Relevant to Fully Utilized Species

Section 672.20(b)(1) specifies that if the Secretary determines after consultation with the Council that the TAC for any species or species group will be fully utilized in the DAP fishery, he may specify the PSC limit applicable to the JVP fisheries for that species or species group. Any PSC limit specified shall be for bycatch only and cannot be retained. Under § 672.20(c)(2)(iv), if the Regional Director determines that a PSC limit applicable to a directed JVP fishery has been or will be reached, the Secretary will publish a notice of closure in the **Federal Register** prohibiting the receipt of U.S.-harvested fish by foreign vessels in all or part of the regulatory area concerned.

Since the Council recommended only a single JVP, that being 10,000 mt of flounder, and intends to review the status of DAP needs later in the year regarding possible apportionments of DAP to JVP to support the bycatch needs of a flounder fishery, the Secretary is not making determinations concerning PSC limits for fully utilized species that would be applicable to JVP at this time. If future apportionments from DAP to JVP occur, the Secretary will also make the necessary determinations under § 672.20(c)(iv) at that time.

4. Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limits

Section 672.20(f)(2)(i) specifies a framework procedure for setting PSC limits for Pacific halibut. This procedure requires the Secretary, after consultation with the Council, to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** to establish PSC limits for Pacific halibut.

The Secretary has consulted with the Council and is affirming the Council's intent that the total fishing mortality inflicted on Pacific halibut by the groundfish fishery should not exceed 2,000 mt. This amount has been recommended by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), because the IPHC subtracts this amount from available harvest amounts for the directed fishery for halibut before setting fishing quotas. The purpose of this amount is to allocate non-retainable bycatch to groundfish fishermen.

Certain assumptions are made relating to different mortality rates between JVP and DAP fisheries, depending on the types and deployment of gear used in the fisheries. In DAP trawl fisheries, 50 percent of all the halibut caught are assumed to be killed. In JVP trawl fisheries, 100 percent of all halibut are assumed to be killed due to the longer trawling time before sorting of catch. In hook-and-line fisheries, 25 percent of all halibut caught are assumed to be killed regardless of whether the fisheries are DAP or JVP.

Certain assumptions are also made regarding the different proportions of target groundfish species caught by the different gear types and the distribution of midwater pollock, by area. These assumptions are summarized as follows:

BYCATCH ASSUMPTIONS

Target species	Gear shares bottom trawl (per-cent)	Domestic	
		Hook-and-line (per-cent)	Mid-water trawl (per-cent)
Pollock.....	25	0	75
Cod.....	85	15	0
Flounders.....	100	0	0
Sablefish.....	15	80	5
Rockfish.....	67	33	0
Midwater Pollock			
Distribution:			
Western, (20% percent);			
Central (80% percent).			

Using the above assumptions, the Secretary is establishing a PSC limit applicable to JVP that is equal to 515 mt based on the JVP for flounder of 10,000 mt and 100 percent mortality rate of halibut in the JVP trawl fishery.

The Secretary is also establishing a PSC limit applicable to DAP. Rather than establish a numerical PSC limit for DAP, the Secretary is defining the PSC limit for DAP as the amount of Pacific halibut caught that would result in a mortality of 1,485 mt of Pacific halibut. This amount will be determined inseason by multiplying the groundfish catches by the assumed rates shown below and using the assumptions of mortality and assumed bycatches discussed above. The Council recognized that the current mix of

groundfish TACs and apportionments thereof would arithmetically result in a catch of 7,203 mt of Pacific halibut. This amount of catch would result in a mortality of 3,544 mt, if each of the DAP and JVP groundfish specifications were caught. Rather than reduce groundfish TACs to generate a PSC limit that would result in a mortality of no more than 2,000 mt, the Council recommended that the Regional Director manage the overall harvest to accomplish the Council's objective relative to the mortality goal for halibut. This procedure will allow the Secretary to more accurately determine the appropriate Pacific halibut bycatch and mortality amounts during the season based directly upon observed and reported harvesting activity. Given that Pacific halibut bycatch and mortality rates vary with the type of gear, target species, and method of gear deployment, the Regional director will be able to calculate Pacific halibut bycatch and mortality based on actual groundfish harvests, thereby increasing the accuracy of the accounting procedures.

The Council also did not recommend JVP specifications of other groundfish species to support bycatch needs for the 10,000 mt flounder JVP. The JVP flounder fishery is not scheduled to start until September 15 to avoid excessive catches of Pacific halibut. The Council intended that the Regional Director would apportion other target groundfish species to JVP, which would support the flounder JVP fishery, if any amounts were determined to be surplus to DAP needs later in the year. If the Regional Director reapports surplus DAP to JVP, the Secretary will also specify a PSC for JVP at that time. In the meantime, the Regional Director intends to monitor the DAP fishery and apply the assumed rates used in computing the PSC against the known groundfish catch. If the Regional Director determines that the catch of Pacific halibut by U.S. vessels fishing in DAP operations will reach a PSC limit, he will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** prohibiting fishing with trawl gear other than pelagic trawl gear for the rest of the year in the Gulf of Alaska, subject to § 672.20(f)(2)(iv).

Assumed rates that were used in computing the Pacific halibut PSC are shown in the following table:

TABLE OF HISTORICAL BYCATCH RATES (PERCENT) BY WEIGHT IN THE WESTERN (W) AND CENTRAL (C), AND EASTERN (E) REGULATORY AREAS USED TO CALCULATE THE PSC LIMITS FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT IN THE DAP 1989 GROUNDFISH FISHERIES

[Rates are from fisheries for groundfish with bottom trawls and mid-water trawls and from fisheries for Pacific cod and sablefish with hook-and-line gear]

	Bottom trawl	Mid-water trawl		Hook-and-line					
		W	C	Pacific cod			Sablefish		
	Gulf-wide			W	C	E	W	C	E
DAP	4.5	0.02	0.06	5.23	9.15	9.15	1.20	1.20	1.20
JVP	5.15	0.02	0.06	5.23	9.15	9.15	1.20	1.20	1.20

Certain of these rates are different than those published at 50 CFR 47993 (November 29, 1988). Differences are for Gulf-wide bottom trawl, midwater trawl in the Western Regulatory Area, and addition of rates to the Eastern Regulatory Area for hook-and-line gear. The 4.5 rate used for DAP Gulf-wide is updated from 2.53, using DAP data from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game observer program during January 1, 1987 through September 30, 1988. The 5.15 rate used for JVP Gulf-wide is updated from 2.53, using 1987 and 1988 NMFS-observed data on joint venture fisheries. The 0.02 rate used for DAP and JVP in the Western Regulatory Area is updated from 0.06, using 1987 NMFS-observed data on joint venture fisheries. The rates in the Eastern Regulatory Area are added and are set equal to those for the Central Regulatory Area, using the latter as the best available information.

5. Apportionments of Reserves to DAP

Under § 672.20(d)(1)(ii), the Secretary may reapportion to DAH any amounts of the reserves that he determines to be needed to supplement DAH as soon as practicable on April 1, June 1, and August 1, and on such other dates as he determines necessary. The Secretary is reapportioning all reserves except flounder to the DAP component of DAH, effective January 1, 1989, on the basis of the NMFS initial estimates of DAP needs. Under § 672.20(d)(5)(iv), when the Secretary determines that apportionment is required on dates other than those specified and he finds that apportioning additional amounts is necessary without affording a prior opportunity for public comment, he will invite such comments for a period of fifteen days after the effective date of the apportionment. Therefore, the

Secretary is inviting comments on the reserve apportionment until February 24, 1989.

6. Inseason adjustment in the pollock fishery

As stated in the discussion of pollock, above, the Council has recommended that no more than 6,250 mt be harvested in Shelikof Strait, as a conservation measure, to protect pollock, which in past years has been harvested in Shelikof Strait to obtain roe from mature female pollock. The biomass of pollock in the Gulf of Alaska has declined after reaching a peak in 1981 and 1982. Depending on the various recruitment scenarios and catch levels used to forecast pollock abundance, the biomass was projected to rebuild to between 866,600 mt and 1,051,500 mt in 1988. Biomass estimates have been based on hydroacoustic surveys conducted in Shelikof Strait. These surveys have focused on aggregations of pollock while they are in spawning condition during March-April. Since few pollock were believed to be present outside Shelikof Strait during this time, the information obtained was thought to represent most of the pollock biomass occurring in the Western/Central Regulatory Area. In addition to the hydroacoustic survey, other information on pollock abundance has been obtained from bottom trawl surveys conducted elsewhere in the Gulf of Alaska every three years. The last such survey was conducted in 1987.

The 1988 hydroacoustic survey in Shelikof Strait produced a biomass estimate of only 330,000 mt, which is the lowest on record. The low biomass is attributed to poor recruitment of the 1984 year class, which would otherwise have recruited into the fishery in 1987 as 3-year old fish. In 1988, they should have been available as 4-year old fish.

Other information obtained from the 1987 triennial bottom trawl survey also shows a decline in pollock biomass. The decline appears to have occurred between 1984 and 1987. Biomass estimated from the 1987 bottom trawl survey was about 593,000 mt. Although the 1987 bottom trawl survey showed a decline in the status of pollock, the decline was not as large as the hydroacoustic survey suggests. Since the 1987 bottom trawl survey showed pollock to be in greater abundance than did the 1988 hydroacoustic survey, the premise is being questioned that hydroacoustic surveys in Shelikof Strait provide the best estimates of pollock abundance for the entire Western/Central Regulatory Area. Estimates can be made of total biomass if these surveys can be considered to only assess a portion of the total biomass. Using information from the 1986 hydroacoustic survey, the 1987 bottom trawl survey, and the 1988 hydroacoustic survey, the range of total biomass is between 330,000 mt and 593,000 mt.

The Secretary concurs with the Council's recommendation and hereby adjusts the TAC under § 672.22 such that no more than 6,250 mt of pollock may be harvested in the Shelikof Strait (Figure 1) as a conservation measure to protect pollock stocks. Coordinates defining Shelikof Strait are provided below. Since the Secretary must be able to monitor the pollock harvested from Shelikof Strait, he is establishing the 6,250 mt harvest limitation as a separate TAC, and hereby requests fishermen to use "621" as the statistical area for purposes of reporting Shelikof Strait pollock harvests, on catch reports required under § 672.5.

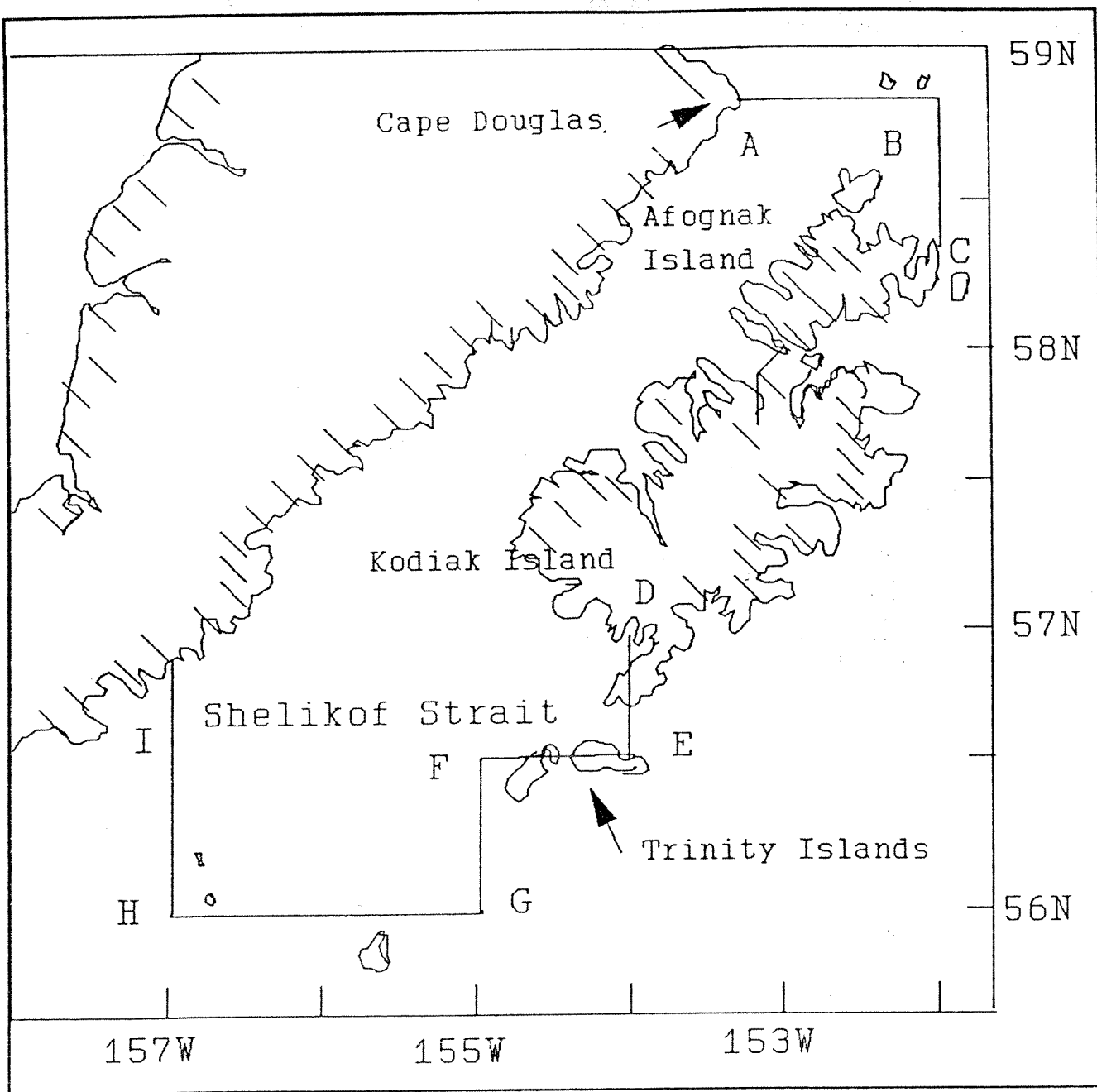


Figure 1

The Shelikof Strait district means all waters of the EEZ enclosed by a line

connecting the following points in the order listed:

Reference point	N. latitude	W. longitude	Description
A	58° 51' N.	153° 15' W.	Cape Douglas;
B	58° 51' N.	152° 00' W.	Then south to the intersection of 152° 00' W. with Afognak Island, then counter clockwise around the western shorelines of Afognak, Kodiak, and Raspberry Islands to;
C			
D	57° 00' N.	154° 00' W.	Alitak Bay then south to;
E	56° 30' N.	154° 00' W.	Then west through Trinity Islands to;
F	56° 30' N.	155° 00' W.	Then south to;
G	56° 00' N.	155° 00' W.	Then west to;
H	56° 00' N.	157° 00' W.	Then north to intersection of 157° 00' W. with the Alaska Peninsula
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Public Comments

No comments were received by the Regional Director.

Other Matters

This action is taken under §§ 611.92, 672.20, and 672.22 and complies with Executive Order 12291. The Secretary finds it necessary to apportion the aforementioned reserves without

affording a prior opportunity for public comment to prevent closures of a target DAP fishery for these species, which might otherwise occur due to the large amount of fishing effort expected. The Secretary also finds it necessary to adjust the pollock TAC limit without affording a prior opportunity for public comment to prevent overfishing pollock in the Shelikof Strait.

List of Subjects

50 CFR Part 611

Fisheries, Foreign relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

50 CFR Part 672

Fisheries, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 8, 1989.

James W. Brennan,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

TABLE 1.—INITIAL ABCS, TACS, DAPS, JVPs, RESERVES (N/A NOT APPLICABLE), AND TALFFS OF GROUND FISH (METRIC TONS) FOR THE WESTERN/CENTRAL (W/C), WESTERN (W), CENTRAL (C), AND EASTERN (E) REGULATORY AREAS AND IN THE SHELIKOF STRAIT (SS), WEST YAKUTAT (WYK), SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE/EAST YAKUTAT (SEO/EYK), AND SOUTHEAST OUTSIDE (SEO) DISTRICTS OF THE GULF OF ALASKA

Species	Area ¹	ABC	TAC	Reserves	DAP	JVP	TALFF
Pollock	W/C	60,000	53,750	0	53,750	0	0
	SS	N/A	6,250	0	6,250	0	0
	E	3,400	200	0	200	0	0
	Total	63,400	60,200	0	60,200	0	0
	W	13,500	13,500	0	13,500	0	0
Pacific cod	C	52,000	52,000	0	52,000	0	0
	E	5,700	5,700	0	5,700	0	0
	Total	71,200	71,200	0	71,200	0	0
	W	111,500	3,200	0	3,200	0	0
	C	384,300	31,800	0	21,800	10,000	0
Other flounder	E	58,900	1,000	0	1,000	0	0
	Total	554,700	36,000	0	26,000	10,000	0
	W	4,900	3,770	N/A	3,770	0	0
	C	13,900	11,700	N/A	11,700	0	0
	WYK	5,300	4,550	N/A	4,550	0	0
Sablefish	SEO/EYK	6,800	5,980	N/A	5,980	0	0
	Total	30,900	26,000	N/A	26,000	0	0
	W	5,774	5,774	N/A	5,774	0	0
	C	8,452	8,452	N/A	8,452	0	0
	E	5,774	5,774	N/A	5,774	0	0
Other ^{2,3}	Total	20,000	20,000	N/A	20,000	0	0
	W	1,000	500	N/A	500	0	0
	C	4,800	2,400	N/A	2,400	0	0
	E	800	400	N/A	400	0	0
	Total	6,600	3,300	N/A	3,300	0	0
Demersal shelf rockfish ⁵	SEO	?	420	N/A	420	0	0
	GW	3,800	3,800	N/A	3,800	0	0
	GW	N/A	11,046	0	11,046	0	0
	Total		231,966	0	221,966	10,000	0

¹ See figure 1 of § 672.20 for description of regulatory areas/districts.

² The category "other rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas and in the West Yakutat and East Yakutat Districts includes Slope rockfish and Demersal shelf rockfish. The category "other rockfish" in the Southeast Outside District includes Slope rockfish.

³ The category slope rockfish includes *Sebastes polyspinis* (Northern rockfish), *S. alutus* (Pacific ocean perch), *S. aleutianus* (Rougheye), *S. zacentrus* (Sharpchin), *S. borealis* (Shortraker), *S. aurora* (Aurora), *S. melanostomus* (Blackgill), *S. goodei* (Chilipepper), *S. crameri* (Darkblotch), *S. elongatus* (Greenstriped), *S. variegatus* (Harlequin), *S. wilsoni* (Pygmy), *S. babcocki* (Red banded), *S. jordani* (Shortbelly), *S. diploproa* (Splitnose), *S. saxicola* (Stripetail), *S. miniatus* (Vermilion), and *S. reedi* (Yellowmouth).

⁴ The category pelagic shelf rockfish includes *Sebastes melanops* (Black), *S. mystinus* (Blue), *S. ciliatus* (Dusky), *S. entomelas* (Widow), and *S. flavidus* (Yellowtail).

⁵ The category demersal shelf rockfish includes *Sebastes paucispinis* (Bocaccio), *S. nebulosus* (China), *S. caurinus* (Copper), *S. maliger* (Quillback), *S. proriger* (Redstripe), *S. helvomaculatus* (Rosethorn), *S. brevispinis* (Silvergrey), *S. nigrocinctus* (Tiger), *S. ruberrimis* (Yelloweye), *S. pinnigera* (Canary).

⁶ The category "other" species includes Atka mackerel, sculpins, sharks, skates, eulachon, smelts, and octopus. The TAC is equal to 5 percent of the TACs of the target species.

⁷ Unknown.